

Lesson Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Lesson ID: 82455-59250

Title: U. S. AMBASSADOR

Operation/Exercise Name: SHARP EDGE

Observed: 05 Aug 1990

Originator: BLT 2/4

POC: Commercial: DSN:

5. (U) OBSERVATION:

Special Operations Capable Exercise

(SOCEX) scenario tends to focus on the Ambassador as being obstructive and in a sense against all military intervention.

However, the need to accelerate events so that the Noncombatant Evacuation Operation (NEO) can be finally conducted, the Ambassador eventually agrees to a military action.

6. (U) DISCUSSION:

a. (U) The Ambassador to Monrovia arrived on scene six months after civil unrest began. He had the benefit of detailed briefings in Washington from the previous Ambassador who was in charge of the Washington, D.C. Liberian Task Force. The acting Ambassador, Deputy Chief of Mission (DCM), provided him with details prior to arrival via radio and telephone. Therefore, the Ambassador arrived in Monrovia lacking only the benefit of actually experiencing the physical environs of Liberia.

b. (U) The role of the Ambassador in this instance seemed at first to fit the classic SOCEX scenario. This Forward Command Element (FCE) and future FCE's must fully understand and accept that Ambassadors view the military solution as the very last resort to any crisis. His goal is to avoid, as long as possible, military response. As long as the FCE keeps reminding itself that this is how the Ambassador must conduct himself, the frustration level remains at a semi-acceptable level.

7. (U) LESSON LEARNED:

For information.

8. (U) RECOMMENDED ACTION:

None.

9. (U) COMMENTS:

None.
